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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
HONG KONG BUREAU

MHK-5022
2 December 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Hong Kong Bureau -- November 1985

I. GENERAL

A. Xu Jiatur, head of the Hong Kong branch of the New China News Agency and de facto top PRC Government official here, gave Hong Kong a case of nervous jitters during the month. At a press conference on the 21st, he accused the British of deviating from the terms of the joint declaration. Xu's comments, reported extensively by the local press, were seen here as confirmation that Beijing is not pleased with recent political reforms in Hong Kong, especially the moves toward a more representative and democratic government. The Hong Kong stock market reacted quickly, dropping 50 points the day following Xu's statements. A UK Foreign Office spokesman was reported as saying the British Government had no idea what Xu meant by his remarks. By the end of the month there were signs that Beijing was trying to smooth it all over. China's chief negotiator on the Joint UK-PRC Liaison Group was quoted by Western media as saying it was his impression that the British were not deviating from the spirit of the joint declaration.

B. The Hong Kong media also showed much interest in the Larry Chin story. Nearly all the papers, both English and Chinese, published reports, most relying on Western press accounts. Some papers are still providing daily updates as more details come out on the formal indictment. The story has also figured prominently in radio and television newscasts, with many of the TV reports including videotapes showing Chin being taken into custody and in and out of federal buildings. While many of the local media reports mentioned Chin's employment with FBIS and his service at Okinawa, none that we are aware of mentioned the bureau here. His employment at the Consulate in the early 50's was the source of most interest and the focus of most press inquiries to the Consulate PAO. The widespread media publicity with references to FBIS stirred up a good deal of initial concern and anxiety among our local employees.

C. Bureau financial and property records were routinely audited during the month. No serious discrepancies were found, but on the recommendation of the auditors we will alter our procedures for keeping property records. The guidelines we have been following were revised several years ago, but apparently these changes were not made known to the bureau.

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D. Our two contracts with Cable & Wireless (for TV monitoring and recording from Victoria Peak and use of the Mt. Butler antenna field) were renewed during the month. Annual charges for the TV taping were increased by about 13%, but there was no increase in the Mt. Butler rent. This is the first increase for either contract since 1981. We expect there will be an increase in the Mt. Butler charges once we complete the microwave backup system, though this should not be effective until next October.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. ~~Non~~-publishable wordage filed during the month was a record 1,247,210 words, some 60,000 words more than the "old" record set last month. Reporting on the Philippines was again the big factor in this record effort. Production on the Philippines, including AFP materials on that country, was a record 343,870 words. Bureau output on the Philippines has grown immensely since coverage of FEBC was transferred here from Okinawa 5 years ago. On 26 November, the fifth anniversary of that coverage transfer, the bureau filed 14,740 words on the Philippines, more than was being filed monthly from FEBC back in 1980.

2. Much of November's reporting on the Philippines centered on the snap election called for by President Marcos to be held on January 17th. With the date now put off until 7 February and the opposition claiming that Marcos must resign before the election, opinion varies on how it will all turn out. But there is a widespread feeling that Marcos has made another clever move. By calling for early elections he caught the opposition off-guard and it is still unclear whether they will be able to put aside their differences and get solidly behind one candidate to successfully challenge the president. The early call for an election to test and probably confirm the people's preference for Marcos will give him the means to tell the U.S. that all the rumors about his unpopularity are, as he says, a lot of nonsense from the leftist U.S. press. One big "if" in the whole scene presently is the verdict in the Aquino murder trial which is expected to be released tomorrow. The outcome, either way, could have an immense impact on the upcoming election.

3. Subscriptions to PRC publications for 1986 have been renewed through the local PPU or our contract employee in Beijing. To date we know of only two papers currently on coverage which it appears may not be renewable. These are NEI MENGGU RIBAO and DONGBEI JINGJI BAO. No reason was given by the Beijing Post Office for not renewing these two subscriptions. We are attempting to get subscriptions by other means. A new overseas edition of LIAOWANG, to be published in Hong Kong, will be available for subscription starting the first of the year. We have been able to obtain copies of the first three editions, published on a trial basis, and several items have been selected and processed. Like the overseas edition of RENMIN RIBAO, the LIAOWANG overseas version is aimed at Chinese in Hong Kong and other countries and includes items believed to be of more interest to that group of readers.

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4. Our coverage of New Zealand took another turn for the worse this month. Just weeks after we had been able to resume coverage of Wellington Radio following seasonal frequency changes, a 250-KW Radio Pyongyang transmitter opened up on the same frequency, obliterating the Wellington broadcast. We reported this to Radio New Zealand and they expressed appreciation for being told (they weren't aware of the Pyongyang transmitter). So far there has been no change in frequencies that would enable us to resume regular coverage, but the station indicated that it would probably do so shortly.

B. Communications

The bureau had two lengthy outages during the month (14-15th and 30 Nov-1 Dec). These were both scheduled and due to extensive modification work and equipment upgrading at TCU.

C. Lateral Services

1. The Consulate in Guangzhou went off its 4-month-long communications minizite this month. Despite this, however, the DPO in Guangzhou has asked the bureau for the time being to continue pouching copies of wirefiled items of interest to the consulate. They hope by the end of the year to start receiving the FBIS file on their circuit.

2. Guangzhou's cautious approach toward accepting the FBIS file is understandable. The Consulate in Shanghai had to back-down this month on receiving FBIS traffic via wire. Full service was resumed in October, but on the 18th of this month they asked Okinawa and Hong Kong to modify that service by cutting out materials on two provinces. Problems in sorting, distributing, and reading the traffic were cited as the reason for the reduction.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

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1. Senior editor [redacted] issued diplomatic passports last month upon expiration of their official ones. They were the first of the bureau staffers to receive the new passports under the recently changed rules. Bureau staffers with more than a year to go on their current tours will apply for the new diplomatic passports this month.

2. The bureau's foreign national performance evaluation panel held its biannual meeting during the month. Promotion and other recognition recommendations have been sent to Headquarters for approval.

3. Negotiations over the Consulate's Provident Fund for local employees continued to drag on during the month. After receiving tentative approval from State some months ago, the Consulate Foreign National Employees Association expressed numerous misgivings about the scheme. The Consulate has been negotiating with

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the Fund managers but at a meeting last week the revised plan was still strongly criticized by many local employees. With uncertainty over their future status with the Consulate after 1997, most employees prefer a plan that emphasizes savings with no penalty withdrawals rather than a long-term pension scheme. Negotiations are continuing.

4. A biannual wage increase recommendation for local employees will probably be submitted to State for approval sometime this month. A mini-survey of wages at local businesses and the Hong Kong Government is expected to be completed soon. Unlike previous wage scale increases, the Consulate has indicated that the effective date will be when it is approved by State, not retroactive to an earlier date in October or November. We are awaiting further details on this.

IV. VISITS

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A. Former FBIS Director [redacted] on 4 November while in Hong Kong on other business.

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B. [redacted] 5-9 November as part of a management trip to the Far East bureaus.

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C. [redacted] on 8 November for talks with [redacted] and the bureau chief on matters of mutual interest.

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D. RMO [redacted] 7-8 November while in Hong Kong on other business, to provide assistance and guidance to Okinawa Bureau during the Fjeld evacuation.

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E. Auditors [redacted] 15, 19, and 20 November.

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F. [redacted] on 22 and 25 November while in Hong Kong on R&R with his family.

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[redacted]
Bureau Chief

Attachment: Monthly Production Report

cc: Original and 3 - Hqs
 1 - C/Okinawa
 1 - C/Bangkok
 1 - C/Seoul

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HONG KONG BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

| | |
|---|---------|
| TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: | 1247210 |
| TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: | 100570 |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH: | 1922 |

| | BROAD-CASTS | PRESS AGENCIES | PUBLICATIONS |
|--|-------------|----------------|--------------|
|--|-------------|----------------|--------------|

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|--------------------------------|------|-------|-----|
| II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: | 5200 | 10140 | 270 |
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III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

CHINA

| | |
|---|-------|
| BEIJING INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN TAGALOG | 3860 |
| BEIJING TELEVISION SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 1410 |
| CHANGSHA HUNAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 11540 |
| CHENGDU SICHUAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 10260 |
| GUANGZHOU GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 9360 |
| GUIYANG GUIZHOU PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 6450 |
| HAIKOU HAINAN ISLAND SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 3220 |
| KUNMING YUNNAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 9270 |
| LANZHOU GANSU PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 7750 |
| LHASA XIZANG REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 16370 |
| NANNING GUANGXI REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 10690 |
| TAIYUAN SHANXI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 5540 |
| URUMQI XINJIANG REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 5210 |
| WUHAN HUBEI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 9490 |
| XIAN SHAANXI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 10250 |
| XINING QINGHAI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 6620 |
| YINCHUAN NINGXIA REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 710 |
| ZHENGZHOU HENAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN | 12190 |

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| BEIJING XINHUA HONG KONG SERVICE IN CHINESE | 10690 |
| BEIJING ZHONGGUO XINWEN SHE IN CHINESE | 37770 |
| BEIJING BAN YUE TAN IN CHINESE | 5480 |
| BEIJING BAOGAO WENXUE IN CHINESE | 0 |
| BEIJING BEIJING WANBAO IN CHINESE | 0 |
| BEIJING CHINA DAILY IN ENGLISH | 28680 |
| BEIJING CHINA DAILY (HUNAN SUPPLEMENT) IN ENGLISH | 3870 |
| BEIJING GONGREN RIBAO IN CHINESE | 4470 |
| BEIJING GUANGMING RIBAO IN CHINESE | 26510 |
| BEIJING GUOJI SHANGBAO IN CHINESE | 0 |
| BEIJING GUOJI WENTI YANJIU IN CHINESE | 0 |
| BEIJING HONGQI IN CHINESE | 89500 |
| BEIJING HUANQIU IN CHINESE | 0 |
| BEIJING JIEFANGJUN WENYI IN CHINESE | 0 |
| BEIJING JINGJI GUANLI IN CHINESE | 41150 |
| BEIJING JINGJI RIBAO IN CHINESE | 44370 |
| BEIJING JINGJI XUE ZHOUBAO IN CHINESE | 0 |
| BEIJING JINGJI YANJIU IN CHINESE | 47020 |
| BEIJING LIAOWANG IN CHINESE | 23870 |
| BEIJING LILUN YUEKAN IN CHINESE | 6300 |
| BEIJING LISHI YANJIU IN CHINESE | 0 |
| BEIJING NONGMIN RIBAO IN CHINESE | 3110 |
| BEIJING RENMIN RIBAO IN CHINESE | 94140 |
| BEIJING RENMIN RIBAO OVERSEAS EDITION IN CHINESE | 2070 |
| BEIJING SHIJIE JINGJI IN CHINESE | 0 |
| BEIJING SHIJIE LISHI IN CHINESE | 0 |
| BEIJING SHIJIE ZHISHI IN CHINESE | 2740 |
| BEIJING WENXUE PINGLUN IN CHINESE | 0 |

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| BEIJING WENYI BAO IN CHINESE | 0 |
| BEIJING WENZHAI BAO IN CHINESE | 0 |
| BEIJING XINWEN ZHANXIAN IN CHINESE | 0 |
| BEIJING ZHEXUE YANJIU IN CHINESE | 0 |
| BEIJING ZHONGGUO FAZHI BAO IN CHINESE | 1390 |
| BEIJING ZHONGGUO QINGNIAN BAO IN CHINESE | 4140 |
| CHENGDU SICHUAN RIBAO IN CHINESE | 680 |
| CHONGQING CHONGQING RIBAO IN CHINESE | 0 |
| FUZHOU ZHONGGUO JINGJI WENTI IN CHINESE | 0 |
| GUANGZHOU GUANGZHOU RIBAO IN CHINESE | 0 |
| GUANGZHOU KAIFANG IN CHINESE | 0 |
| GUANGZHOU NANFANG RIBAO IN CHINESE | 1940 |
| GUANGZHOU YANGCHENG WANBAO IN CHINESE | 0 |
| HAIKOU HAINAN RIBAO IN CHINESE | 500 |
| KUNMING YUNNAN RIBAO IN CHINESE | 920 |
| LANZHOU LANZHOU WANBAO IN CHINESE | 0 |
| SHANGHAI SHIJIE JINGJI DAOBAO IN CHINESE | 0 |
| TAIYUAN SHANXI RIBAO IN CHINESE | 1860 |
| WUHAN CHANGJIANG RIBAO IN CHINESE | 0 |
| WUHAN HUBEI RIBAO IN CHINESE | 0 |
| XIAN SHAANXI RIBAO IN CHINESE | 8930 |
| YINCHUAN NINGXIA RIBAO IN CHINESE | 8310 |

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| HONG KONG | |
| HONG KONG ASIA TELEVISION LTD IN ENGLISH | 300 |
| HONG KONG TELEVISION BROADCAST LTD IN ENGLISH | 500 |
| HONG KONG COMMERCIAL RADIO IN ENGLISH | 2790 |
| HONG KONG DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH | 1460 |

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| DAGUPAN CITY DZDL RADIO IN | |
| TAGALOG | 1340 |
| QUEZON CITY MAHARLIKA BROADCASTING SYSTEM IN | |
| ENGLISH | 29320 |
| MANILA BULLETIN TODAY IN | |
| ENGLISH | 41560 |
| MANILA BUSINESS DAY IN | |
| ENGLISH | 85030 |
| MANILA METRO MANILA TIMES IN | |
| ENGLISH | 18030 |
| MANILA MR. & MS. SPECIAL EDITION IN | |
| ENGLISH | 1440 |
| MANILA PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS IN | |
| ENGLISH | 20530 |
| MANILA PHILIPPINES SUNDAY EXPRESS IN | |
| ENGLISH | 3000 |
| MANILA TIMES JOURNAL IN | |
| ENGLISH | 15820 |
| DAVAO CITY MINDANAO MIRROR BULLETIN IN | |
| ENGLISH | 520 |
| DAVAO CITY MINDANAO TIMES IN | |
| ENGLISH | 880 |
| DAVAO CITY PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM IN | |
| ENGLISH | 3180 |
| DAVAO CITY SAN PEDRO EXPRESS IN | |
| ENGLISH | 900 |
| DAVAO CITY THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR IN | |
| ENGLISH | 1720 |
| QUEZON CITY ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA IN | |
| ENGLISH | 24900 |
| QUEZON CITY VERITAS IN | |
| ENGLISH | 22310 |
| QUEZON CITY WE FORUM IN | |
| ENGLISH | 6790 |

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| HONG KONG AFP IN ENGLISH | 169860 |
| HONG KONG ASIAWEEK IN ENGLISH | 6440 |
| HONG KONG CHANWANG IN CHINESE | 0 |
| HONG KONG CHENG MING IN CHINESE | 11710 |
| HONG KONG CHING PAO IN CHINESE | 7930 |
| HONG KONG CHIUSHIH NIETAI IN CHINESE | 0 |
| HONG KONG FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW IN ENGLISH | 1760 |
| HONG KONG HONG KONG STANDARD IN ENGLISH | 8460 |
| HONG KONG HONG KONG STANDARD (BUSINESS STANDARD SUPPLEMENT) IN ENGLISH | 2740 |
| HONG KONG HSIN WAN PAO IN CHINESE | 3800 |
| HONG KONG KUANG CHIAO CHING IN CHINESE | 2600 |
| HONG KONG LIAOWANG OVERSEAS EDITION IN CHINESE | 4670 |
| HONG KONG MING PAO IN CHINESE | 6190 |
| HONG KONG PAI HSING IN CHINESE | 0 |
| HONG KONG SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST IN ENGLISH | 29640 |
| HONG KONG SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST (BUSINESS NEWS SUPPLEMENT) IN ENGLISH | 21520 |
| HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO IN CHINESE | 5370 |
| HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO IN ENGLISH | 5780 |
| HONG KONG WEN WEI PO IN CHINESE | 8370 |

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| NEW ZEALAND | |
| WELLINGTON OVERSEAS SERVICE IN ENGLISH | 5370 |
| WELLINGTON THE EVENING POST IN ENGLISH | 1130 |
| AUCKLAND THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD IN ENGLISH | 870 |

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| PHILIPPINES | |
| MANILA FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY IN ENGLISH | 17450 |
| MANILA FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY IN TAGALOG | 2630 |
| MANILA RADIO VERITAS IN TAGALOG | 0 |